

***The Kentucky
State Funded
Preschool Program***

***Building a Strong
Foundation
for School Success***

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Kentucky Preschool Program

State Funded Preschool for 3 and 4 Year Olds



**Kentucky
Department of Education**

PROGRAM

Kentucky Preschool Program classrooms actively engage children so they will gain the skills and knowledge they need to enter primary school ready to achieve and excel at learning. Kentucky Preschool classrooms focus on the:



- cognitive
- language
- physical
- social
- emotional

development of each child. The preschool program also reduces barriers to learning by assuring that children receive:

- health screening
- vision screening
- hearing screening
- developmental screening
- parent education opportunities
- social services as needed.

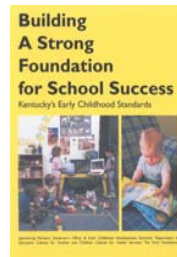


Each child also receives at least one meal during the classroom program.

All new teachers hired into the Kentucky Preschool Program beginning in 2004-2005 must hold an Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) certificate. The IECE teachers are highly skilled instructors who are responsive to the learning needs of young children, including children with disabilities.



BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS



The *Kentucky Early Childhood Standards* are designed to reflect the range of developmental achievements for young children birth through four years of age.

The *Parent Guides* help parents to understand how children grow and learn by presenting the standards in family-friendly terms. An important component of the Parent Guides is a listing of activities that can easily be accomplished by a parent and child and support development and learning.

The *Kentucky Continuous Assessment Guide* provides guidance to early childhood programs as they develop or revise their assessment system to measure a child's progress and improvement related to the *Kentucky Early Childhood Standards*. The Guide provides recommended guidelines and practices in all areas of assessment: screening, diagnostic, classroom/ instructional and program evaluation.

The *Quality Self Study* assists early care and education professionals in understanding components of quality center based programs. The *Guide* identifies five components that reflect quality: Program Structure and Personnel; Child Experiences in the Environment; Child Experiences with Curriculum and Assessment; Health, Nutrition and Safety; and Program Interactions with Families and Communities.

CHILDREN

The Kentucky Preschool Program provides an environment that:



- is nurturing and child centered
- staffed by qualified teachers
- engages children in hands-on learning
- promotes literacy and language development and pre-math skills
- supports children as individuals
- encourages children to explore, question, and discover answers

- allows for observation and recording of each child's ongoing growth and development to plan activities
- recognizes children as learners

Eligibility Guidelines:

- 3 and 4 year olds with disabilities or developmental delays
- 4 year olds eligible for free lunch

FAMILIES

The Kentucky Preschool Program encourages family involvement. Activities are planned to support different types of family structures such as single parent, foster parent, and extended and limited English proficiency (LEP) families. Opportunities available to families include but are not limited to:

- participation in the classroom and other activities as volunteers or observers
- parent training, education and other activities parents help to develop
- parent and child activities in cooperation with preschool staff
- meetings with staff and other two-way communication to discuss child's individual needs and progress
- home visits
- evaluation of program

